

Degrees of Comparison

1. Degree = range / rank / grade / intensity
2. Degree means the rank or grade given according to the quality
3. Comparison
4. Adjectives change in form to show comparison. This is called degree of comparison.
5. Degrees of comparison are mostly formed from adjectives and adverbs.

Types: There are three types of “Degrees of comparison”. They are

1. Positive Degree
2. Comparative Degree
3. Superlative Degree

1. Positive Degree:

- a. An adjective used without any comparison is said to be in the positive degree.
- b. It is used when no comparison is made.
- c. When we compare positive degree, we take
“As.....As”(or) “So.....As”

Ex: 1. Ramu is a clever boy.

2. Ramu is as clever as Bhima.

2. Comparative Degree:

- a. The comparison between two persons or two things is called “comparative degree”.
- b. We make comparative degree by adding “-er” to the positive degrees of adjectives using than immediately after the comparative adjectives.
Ex: Ramu is cleverer than somu.
- c. We can identify the comparative degree in “-er” at most.
- d. In long adjectives don’t add “-er” but use “more” before the adjectives.
- e. The comparative degree of an adjectives denotes a higher degree of the quality than positive degree and is used when two things are compared.

3. Superlative Degree:

- a. An adjective used to compare more than “two persons or things”.
- b. It indicates the “highest degree of quality”
- c. Superlative degree expresses the highest or the least degree of quality that exist in a person or thing.
- d. The is used in superlative degree, we also add “-est” to the positive degree.
- e. Superlative degree identified by “-est” at most.
- f. For long adjectives don’t add “-est”, but use “most” before the adjectives.
- g. In the situation of prepositions “of” or “among” will come after.

Ex: somu is the tallest of all boys in the class.

Note I :Formation of Comparative and Superlative Degrees

Most adjectives form the comparative by adding “-er” and the superlative by adding “-est” to positive degree.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Tall	Taller	Tallest
Small	Smaller	Smallest
Clever	Cleverer	Cleverest
Long	Longer	Longest
Young	Younger	Youngest
Great	Greater	Greatest
Deep	Deeper	Deepest
Thick	Thicker	Thickest
Bold	Bolder	Boldest
High	Higher	Highest

Note II: If the positive degree ends with “-e”, only “-r” and “-st” added to positive degree to form comparative degree and superlative degree.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Brave	Braver	Bravest
Fine	Finer	Finest
Large	Larger	Largest
Wise	Wiser	Wisest

Able	Abler	Ablest
Noble	Nobler	Noblest
Pure	Purer	Purest

Note – III: If the positive ends with “-y” only change “-y” into “-i” add “-er” for the comparative and “-est” for the superlative degree.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Happy	Happier	Happiest
Lazy	Lazier	Laziest
Easy	Easier	Easiest
Heavy	Heavier	Heaviest
Costly	Costlier	Costliest
Pretty	Prettier	Prettiest
Busy	Busier	Busiest
Wealthy	Wealthier	Wealthiest

Note-IV: In certain cases, the last letter of the positive degree will be doubled and “-er” to the comparative degree and “-est” is added for the superlative degree.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Hot	Hotter	Hottest
Thin	Thinner	Thinnest
Sad	Sadder	Saddest
Slim	Slimmer	Slimmest
Dim	Dimmer	Dimmest
Fat	Fatter	Fattest

Note- V: For long adjectives, we add “more” for the comparative degree instead of “-er” and “most” for the superlative degree for instead of “-est”.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful
Difficult	More difficult	Most difficult
Famous	More famous	Most famous
Popular	More popular	Most popular
Useful	More useful	Most useful
Brilliant	More brilliant	Most brilliant

Note- VI: Some adjectives are “irregular”.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Good, well	Better	Best
Bad, evil, ill	Worse	Worst
Much	More	Most
Far	Farther/Further	Farthest/Furthest
Old	Older	Oldest
Old(relations)	Elder	Eldest
Little	less, lesser	Least
Late	Later, latter	Latest last.

Model-I

Structure:

Positive Degree:

Sub+Verb+as(so) adjective as+ ----- (or)
Sub+Verb+at least as adjective as+ -----

Comparative Degree:

Sub+ Verb+ Comparative form + than + -----

- In Model – I comparison takes place between two persons or two things only. Therefore, there is no “superlative Degree” in it.
- If the positive degree does not have “not”, then, we use “not” in the comparative degree.
- If the positive degree has “not” then we remove “not” in the comparative degree.
- In negative sentence, we use “not asas” or “not soas”.
- When the comparative degree is negative, “at least as –adjectives as” used in positive degree.

Ex:

- Ashok is not as tall as Ashwin(P.D)
Ashwin is taller than Ashok.(C.D)
- Siva is not as short as Praneeth. (P.D)
Praneeth is shorter than Siva. (C.D)
- Ashok is not as bold as Pradeep. (P.D)
Pradeep is bolder than Ashok. (C.D)
- Silver is not as precious as Gold. (P.D)
Gold is more precious than Silver. (C.D)
- Sita is not as rich as Gita. (P.D)
Gita is richer than Sita. (C.D)
- Pradeep is as bold as Ashok. **Or**(P.D)
Pradeep is atleast as bold as Ashok. (P.D)
Ashok is not bolder than Pradeep. (C.D)

Model – II

Structure:

Superlative	Comparative	Positive
-est	than any other	No other---as adjective as

Ex:

- Ramana is the cleverest boy in the class.(S.D)
Ramana is cleverer than any other boy in the class.(C.D)
No other boy in the class is as clever as Ramana.(P.D)
- Gandhi is the most famous leader. (S.D)
Gandhi is more famous than any other leader. (C.D)
No other leader is as famous as Gandhi. (P.D)
- Ashok is the boldest boy. (S.D)
Ashok is bolder than any other boy. (C.D)
No other boy is as bold as Ashok. (P.D)
- The rose is the prettiest flower. (S.D)
The rose is prettier than any other flower. (C.D)
No other flower is as pretty as the rose. (P.D)
- Bilgates is the richest person in the world. (S.D)
Bilgates is richer than any other person in the world. (C.D)
No other person in the world is as rich as Bilgates. (P.D)

Model – III

Structure:

Superlative	Comparative	Positive
One of the (est)	than many other(or)	very few(or)
	Than most other	few other

Ex:

- Mumbai is one of the biggest cities in India.(S.D)
Mumbai is bigger than many other cities in India.(C.D)
Very few cities in India are as big as Mumbai. (P.D)
- Ashoka was one the most powerful emperor in India. (S.D)
Ashoka was more powerful than many other emperors in India. (C.D)
Very few emperors in India were as powerful as Ashoka. (P.D)
- India is one of the hottest countries in the world. (S.D)
India is hotter than many other countries in the world. (C.D)
Very few countries in the world are as hot as India. (P.D)
- Rani is one of the most beautiful girls in the class. (S.D)
Rani is more beautiful than most other girls in the class. (C.D)
Very few girls in the class are as beautiful as Rani. (P.D)
- Ashok is one of the boldest boys. (S.D)
Ashok is bolder than many other boys. (C.D)
Very few boys are as bold as Ashok. (P.D)

Model – IV

Structure:

Superlative	Comparative	Positive
Not+est	than some other	some other At least as

Ex:

- Tennyson is not the greatest poet. (S.D)
Tennyson is not greater than some other poets. (C.D)
Some other poets are at least as great as Tennyson. (P.D)
- Rohan is not the dullest boy in the class(S.D)
Rohan is not duller than some other boys in the class. (C.D)
Some other boys in the class are at least as dull as Rohan. (P.D)
- Varsha is not the tallest girl in the class. (S.D)
Varsha is not taller than some other girls in the class. (C.D)
Some other girls in the class are at least as tall as Varsha. (P.D)
- Rani is not the richest student. (S.D)
Rani is not richer than some other students. (C.D)
Some other students are at least as rich as Rani. (P.D)

S.no	Superlative	Comparative	Positive
I	No	i. not+ comparative form+ than ii. comparative form + than	At least as (adj) as Or As (Adj) as Not + as(Adj) as
II	-est	Than any other	No other-----as(Adj) as---
III	One of the (-est)	Than many other (or) Than most other	Very few (or) Few other
IV	Not + “-est”	Than some other	Some other ----- at least as (Adj)as

Ex:

- Vani is not as old as Rani. (P.D)
Rani is elder than Vani. (C.D)
- This tree is as old as than Tree. (P.D)
That tree is not older than this Tree. (C.D)
- Sita is the best student in the class. (S.D)
Sita is better than any other student in the class. (C.D)
No other student in the class is as good as Sita. (P.D)
- Ramu is the worst student in the class. (S.D)
Ramu is worse than any other student in the class. (C.D)
No other student in the class is as bad as Ramu. (P.D)

[Text Book] Degrees of Comparison – Important Examples

1. No one is as strong as Mohan in the class. (P.D)
Mohan is stronger than any other boy in the class.(C.D)
Mohan is the strongest boy in the class.(S.D)
2. Budda is as wise as Solomon.(P.D)
Solomon is not wiser than Budda. (C.D)
3. Shakespeare is the greatest writer in English. (S.D)
Shakespeare is greater than any other writer in English. (C.D)
No there writer in English is so great as Shakespeare. (P.D)
4. Madras is one of the biggest cities In India. (S.D)
Madras is bigger than most other cities in India. (C.D)
Very few cities in India are so big as Madras. (P.D)
5. Iron is the most useful metal. (S.D)
Iron is more useful than any other metal. (C.D)
No other metal is so useful as iron. (P.D)
6. No other morning English newspaper is so popular as “the hindu”. (P.D)
“The Hindu” is more popular than any other morning English newspaper. (C.D)
“The Hindu” is the most popular morning English newspaper. (S.D)

7. Darjeeling is lovelier than any other hill station, I have ever seen. (C.D)
Darjeeling is the loveliest of hill station I have ever seen. (S.D)
No other hill station, I have ever seen is so lovely as Darjeeling. (P.D)
8. America is one of the richest countries in the world. (S.D)
America is richer than most other countries in the world. (C.D)
Very few countries in the world are as rich as America. (P.D)
9. The Indus valley civilization is older than most other civilizations in the world. (C.D)
Very few civilizations in the world are as old as the Indus valley civilization. (P.D)
The Indus valley civilization is one of the oldest in the world. (S.D)
10. No other people in the world are so courteous as the Japanese. (P.D)
The Japanese are more courteous than any other people in the world. (C.D)
The Japanese are most courteous people in the world. (S.D)
11. Akbar is one of the greatest kings. (S.D)
Akbar is greater than many other kings. (C.D)
Very few kings are as great as Akbar. (P.D)
12. A sword is not as strong as a pen. (P.D)
A pen is stronger than a sword. (C.D)
13. Bombay is one of the biggest city. (S.D)
Bombay is a bigger city than many other cities. (C.D)
Very few cities are as big as Bombay. (P.D)
14. Australia is the largest island. (S.D)
Australia is larger than any other island. (C.D)
No other island is as large as Australia. (P.D)
15. It is better to starve than to beg. (C.D)
To beg is not so good as to starve. (P.D)
16. Helen of troy was more beautiful than any other women. (C.D)
Helen o troy was the most beautiful women. (S.D)
No other woman was as beautiful as Helen of troy. (P.D)
17. No other story book is so popular as the Arabian Nights. (P.D)
Arabian Nights is more popular than any other story book. (C.D)
Arabian Nights is the most popular story book. (S.D)
18. Rahim is not as intelligent as Karim. (P.D)
Karim is more intelligent than Rahim. (C.D)
19. No other exercise is so healthy as swimming. (P.D)
Swimming is healthier than any other exercise. (C.D)
Swimming is the healthiest exercise. (S.D)
20. It is easier to preach than to practice. (C.D)
To practice is not so easy to preach. (P.D)
21. Mary is as clever as Lily. (P.D)
Lily is not cleverer than Mary. (C.D)
22. Sridevi is one of the best actresses in our country. (S.D)
Sridevi is better than many other actresses in our country. (C.D)
Very few actresses are as good as Sridevi in our country. (P.D)
23. Ramakrishna Paramahamsa was a greater saint than Swami Vivekananda. (C.D)
Swami Vivekananda was not a great saint as Ramakrishna Paramahamsa. (P.D)
24. Pathan bowls faster than Tendulkar. (C.D)
Tendulkar doesn't bowl as fast as Pathan. (P.D)
25. Everest is higher than any other peak in the world. (C.D)
Everest is the highest peak in the world. (S.D)
26. No other man is as strong as Hercules. (P.D)
Hercules is stronger than any other man. (C.D)
Hercules is the strongest man. (S.D)
27. The Ganga is the longest river in India. (S.D)
The Ganga is longer than any other river in India. (C.D)
No other river in India is as long as the Ganga. (P.D)
28. John is not as clever as his sister. (P.D)
John's sister is cleverer than he. (C.D)
29. Japan is scientifically more advanced than most other countries in the world. (C.D)
Japan is one of the most advance d countries scientifically in the world. (S.D)
30. No other island in the world is so large as Australia. (P.D)
Australia is larger than any other island is in the world. (C.D)
Australia is the largest island in the world. (S.D)

31. Wordsworth is one of the greatest poets in English. (S.D)
Wordsworth is greater than many other poets in English. (C.D)
Very few poets in English are as great as Wordsworth. (P.D)
32. The Eiffel Tower is higher than the Kutub Minar. (C.D)
The Kutub Minar is not as high as the Eiffel Tower. (P.D)
33. Health is better than wealth. (C.D)
Wealth is not as good as health. (P.D)
34. This temple is the biggest in India. (S.D)
This temple is bigger than any other temple in India. (C.D)
No other temple in India is as big as this temple. (P.D)
35. No other man was so wise as Ulysses. (P.D)
Ulysses was wiser than any other man in the world. (C.D)
Ulysses was the wisest man. (S.D)
36. Some people have more wealth than wisdom. (C.D)
Most people do not have wisdom as much as wealth. (P.D)
37. Very few girls are as industrious as Sujata. (P.D)
Sujatha is more industrious than many other girls. (C.D)
Sujatha is one of the most industrious girls. (S.D)
38. Kalidasa is greater than any other poet in Sanskrit. (C.D)
Kalidasa is the greatest poet in Sanskrit. (S.D)
No other poet in Sanskrit is as great as Kalidasa. (P.D)
39. I have ever seen such a beautiful palace as this. (P.D)
This is the most beautiful palace I have ever seen. (S.D)
This is more beautiful than any other palace I have seen. (C.D)
40. Tirupathi is one of the most popular pilgrim towns. (S.D)
Tirupathi is more popular than many other pilgrim towns. (C.D)
Very few pilgrim towns are as popular as Tirupathi. (P.D)
41. No other book is so interesting as The Gulliver's Travels. (P.D)
The Gulliver's Travels is more interesting than any other book. (C.D)
The Gulliver's Travels is the most interesting book. (S.D)
42. It is better resign than to evade work. (C.D)
To evade work is not as good as to resign. (P.D)
43. A good enemy is better than a foolish friend. (C.D)
A foolish friend is not as good as a good friend. (P.D)

Prepared By,
A. Sivaiah,
M.A, M.Ed.